

**Draft Meeting Notes**  
**CALFED Bay-Delta Program North Delta Improvements Group**  
**August 9, 2001 at 9:30 am in room 1142**

Attendance List:

Margit Aramburu, Delta Protection Commission  
Jean Brown, DWR Floodplain Management  
Brad Burkholder, Fish and Game, Bay Delta Unit  
Mike Callahan, San Joaquin County Public Works  
Robert Clark, CCFVCA  
Rob Cooke, CALFED  
Craig Crouch, Sacramento County Public Works  
Bill Darsie, KSN Engineering  
Mike Eaton, The Nature Conservancy  
Bellory Fong, CALFED  
Tony Frisbee, CALFED  
Rod Johnson, CALFED  
Gwen Knittweis, CALFED (chair)  
Grant Kreinberg, SAFCA  
Roger Lee, DWR Reclamation Board  
Jim Nichols, CALFED  
Michael Norris, DWR Central District (minutes)  
Ed Schmit, DWR Central District  
Dave Showers, DWR Central District  
Craig Stevens, Jones and Stokes  
John Thomson, USFWS  
Topper VanLoebenSels, RD 551, NDWA, and DPC  
Chuck Vogelsang, CALFED  
Carl Werder, USBR  
April Zohn, Jones and Stokes

**Introductions:**

Gwen Knittweis convened the meeting and had the group introduce themselves. The previous meeting minutes will be posted on the reflector so that the group can comment on them.

**Update on CALFED Permit Coordination:**

Chuck Vogelsang presented the first agenda item dealing with an update on CALFED Permit Coordination. A permit handbook has been prepared for agency review. The handbook is actually being called a “guide”. Comments are due by 8-17-01. Bill Darsie asked about local review of the guide and Chuck confirmed that it is only “agency review” at this time. It will eventually be put on the Web for anyone to look at and comment on. A permit tracking database has been developed by DFG. The system will be completed in a few more months. Margit asked about the projects that will be tracked and Chuck thought it would be all the CALFED projects that are being worked on. The

database contains a variety of information on things such as which permits are required and which NEPA/CEQA documents were used in approving a project. A Unified Application Format is being worked on but it will take awhile to develop according to Chuck. Margit thought a “unified cover sheet” was also important as part of this process. The cover sheet should specify things such as what program the project is in, what part of the Delta, what county it is in, which legislator is in the jurisdiction, and so on. Chuck discussed the Non-Binding Dispute Resolution Process. The process is there but it hasn’t been executed yet. The process now is to try and work out a dispute with your immediate supervisor(s) and, if that doesn’t work, then you can go to CALFED Management. Chuck discussed the Annual Report that has been prepared. The data from the tracking database will be in next year’s report. The reports will be available in the future on the Web. Lastly, Chuck discussed the Permit Coordinators. Some of the coordinators include Chuck and Rob Cooke but there is an ongoing process to get other people involved too. Brad Burkholder asked if there was any communication with other agencies that have a permit coordination process and Chuck noted there was some coordinating that was being done.

#### **Update on Hydraulic Modeling Process:**

Gwen discussed the progress that has been made on preparing a hydraulic model for the north Delta projects. The organizations that are involved include CALFED, SAFCA, Sacramento County, San Joaquin County, UC Davis, DPC, the Reclamation Board, Jones and Stokes, NHC, MBK, DCC Engineering, and Ensign and Buckley. The inclination at this point is to use the UNET model to retain consistency with the Corps model. However, the “Mike11” model is being considered for low flow scenarios. Margit suggested a workshop to let the locals know about what is going to happen. Craig Crouch wondered if it could be done as part of the Scoping Process and Margit thought it could be done that way or even before Scoping. Grant Kreinberg noted they are working closely with MBK and Ensign and Buckley for guidance on selecting the appropriate model. The next meeting for the hydraulic modelers will be held on 8-22-2001.

#### **Update of Purpose and Need Statement:**

Craig Stevens discussed and distributed a copy of the Draft Initial Purpose and Need Statement for the NDIP and emphasized the importance of integrating the two stated purposes in a way that will drive the development of reasonable alternatives. He also noted that we needed to find a way to incorporate water supply reliability as a secondary project purpose. Margit emphasized that the NDIP should incorporate all of the programmatic goals in the CALFED PEIR/EIS;; Craig noted that it would also be important to narrow the project purpose enough to keep the project alternatives within a reasonable range, while still integrating the other programmatic purposes as secondary or subsequent goals. Craig also noted the Purpose and Need Statement was an ongoing process so everyone would get a chance to comment on it. April Zohn noted we could also look at the South Delta Group Purpose and Need Statement for comparison purposes.

#### **Update on North Delta Agency Team:**

The North Delta Agency Team (NDAT) met for the first time since last fall on August 1,

2001, and will continue to meet each month. A handout listed the individual agency NDAT members. It was noted that the Delta Wide steering Committee is also meeting to develop Ecosystem Restoration Goals which will ultimately guide the ecosystem restoration component of the NDIP. The group will be kept informed of the progress of the NDAT by monthly progress reports. Bill Darsie discussed the lack of local participation in the NDAT although Margit suggested the locals make an appearance at the NDAT meetings as a guest speaker. Bill discussed how some locals have had to walk a project through a permit process that involved a maze of different agencies and the individual agency NDAT members don't have that specific type of experience.

#### **Update on Schedule Progress:**

There was a handout for the proposed schedule for the North Delta Improvements Program. The schedule needs some more revisions. There are some minor delays in implementing the contract. Craig noted one concern is that they are attempting to coordinate with Marina Brand's group and the Steering Committee but there are concerns about waiting too long to get direction from those groups.

#### **Update on Recreational Issues:**

Rob Cooke had a handout entitled Sample Proposed North Delta Area Recreational Improvements. He noted there is an "ad-hoc" group that meets to discuss recreational issues and the North Delta group could have some recreational actions that come from that group. Rob noted the North Delta group could need some actions sooner than the ad-hoc group could develop a plan. Rob introduced Tony Frisbee who is the CALFED "Delta Region Outreach Liaison". Margit discussed a 1997 Parks and Recreation document that had some recreation recommendations in it. Bill Darsie noted that boating speed limits may have to be reduced where rehabilitation work is done although the boating industry won't like that. Robert Clark asked about the proposed "boating trails" on the handout and Rob and Margit thought it might apply to small crafts that follow an educational pre-described trail. Margit also noted the need for ADA compliance for wheelchair access. There was also discussion of the need for access to facilities such as portable restrooms and emergency access in the event of an accident.

#### **Update on the Sacramento County Proposed Alternative:**

Craig Crouch discussed the "Interstate 5 & Point Pleasant Flood Protection Project" as an added agenda item. It was shown on a handout. The project used to be called Alternative 11E or 11F. The purpose of the project is to stop the Cosumnes River flows from going into the Point Pleasant area. A proposed new levee to the north along Hood Franklin Road would hold back the flows from the Stone Lakes area that originate from Morrison Creek flows. It was noted that the proposed levee would raise flows upstream and that concern has been noted by some. Sacramento County is trying to get approval from the Board so they can move on with the project and link the project with the CALFED documents. The proposed alternative can also help keep portions of I-5 dry but coordinating with CalTrans is challenging right now according to Craig. Margit asked about whether the Reclamation Districts in the area of the proposed alternative (RDs 813 and 1002) have been notified about the project. Craig noted that, although no environmental document has yet been published, the RDs are aware of the project. There

are no problems with RD813 but RD1002 would not want to maintain any new facilities or increase its size so a new RD may have to be formed. Topper VanLoebenSels wondered if the project would be labeled as outside the 100-year floodplain after its completion and Craig noted that this was not the case. The project would meet HMP standards only. Craig didn't think the county was interested in doing a FEMA re-mapping after completion of the project. Mike Eaton noted his concerns about whether the hydraulic capacity downstream will be achieved without impacting habitat values and farming operations and whether the project might actually induce housing growth in the area in the future. Mike noted the area is good Sandhill Crane habitat. Topper had a concern about a possible "tradeoff" from the project. If we have 1986 flood conditions again, he wondered if we might be trading the flooding of Staten Island with a new island we're creating from the project. It was suggested that we could build a "ring levee" around the Point Pleasant area and achieve flood protection that way but Craig noted that such an alternative would not serve to provide flood protection to the nearby jail or I-5.

**Update on the Delta Cross Channel Through-Delta Facility (DCCTDF) Studies:**

Ron Ott discussed the DCCTDF study and the yellow CALFED handout which summarized the actions. The studies that have been done are "pilot studies". The study group is putting in acoustic stations to make it easier to follow and track the fish and Ron had an overhead showing the proposed locations of the acoustic stations. It was possible to develop velocity profiles from the work that was done last year and it is hoped that improved profiles could be constructed this year. There was an overhead showing the underwater velocity meter. Michael Norris asked about the difference between the old acoustic devices at Georgiana Slough (that served to try to keep the fish from entering the slough) and the new acoustic devices. It was noted the old devices were more appropriately called an "acoustic barrier" and the new devices serve to track the fish but not scare them away. Margit noted that a "non-physical solution" should be studied as well. Ron summarized by noting that, if we eventually determine that re-operation of the Delta Cross Channel does not improve water quality, then we go back to CALFED and ask them to design a through-Delta facility. There are already some questions from the stakeholders about whether the study and the gate re-operations are costing them more money on their end for the water deliveries.

**Other Issues / Next Meeting Date:**

Mike Eaton gave an update on a few items. There was recently \$400,000 worth of levee work done on McCormack Williamson Tract to make a section of levee a 5:1 slope. Habitat planting will be done next year. There are only a few delays on the acquisition of Staten Island. It should still be possible to meet a September deadline. The existing operation of the island will remain in place until the year 2003 whereupon a new structure will be formed. There is a Cowell Project for the acquisition of 330 acres adjacent to Wimpys Marina. The project could result in a possible marina redevelopment project.

Gwen scheduled the next meeting of the group for the morning of September 6, 2001.